

5-24-2012

## The Observer

Central Washington University

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by the students & for the students of cwu

# The Observer

Vol. 91 No. 8 May 24 - 30, 2012

# Observer



Observer Online



CWUobserver

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World  
War

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**PANEL PLAYERS** Raymond Hall (holding microphone), a Vietnam War veteran, talks at the PTSD forum May 16.

## Veterans discuss PTSD

BY **MATTHEW THOMPSON**  
Staff Reporter

Faculty, students and members of the community convened on May 16 in the Mary Grupe Center to discuss post-traumatic stress disorder and the social stigmas that surround it.

"The objective was to push back against the stereotype that seems to be developing in our media around veterans all having PTSD," said Rob Harden, director of the Center for Disability Services. "And that all people who are diagnosed with PTSD act out violently."

The panel discussion was entitled "I Have PTSD, So What?" and was sponsored by Central Washington University's Center for Diversity and Social Justice, Center for Disability Services, and Student Medical and Counseling Clinic as well as the Veterans Center.

"PTSD isn't just a veteran issue; lots of different people have it," said Paul Stayback, senior sociology and veteran. "And it's not necessarily the big scary thing that the media portrays it as."

Eight panelists, seven of whom were veterans, gave personal accounts of how PTSD has impacted their lives.

"There is reasons why we do certain things. I sit in the back of classrooms, which I know drives professors crazy," said Rick Grooms, senior law and justice and veteran. "I just don't like having people sit behind me."

Raymond Hall, professor of Africana and Black Studies, and a Vietnam War veteran, explained that PTSD is not something that a sufferer can be cured of, but instead must be coped with.

"You get to a place where you learn how to handle it, you learn what the triggers are," Hall said. "And then your family, the family that you have around you, that is your support system."

Panelists discussed that not all of those who are diagnosed with PTSD are veterans. However, among the most susceptible are the men and women who serve in our military. Randy Robinette, senior director for the Medical and Counseling Clinic, pointed out that change is inevitable for those who are sent overseas.

"Sending anybody into a combat zone or exposing them to the horror of death, mutilation and stuff like that, they're not going to come out being the same," Robinette said.

Likewise, any person who is exposed to a traumatic event can be vulnerable to the development of PTSD. Any student struggling to cope with an unnerving occurrence is encouraged to contact Central Medical and Counseling Clinic.

Like any other ordinary person, people who have post-traumatic stress syndrome want to be treated with respect instead of fear, empathy and sympathy.

Harden believes people have a duty to help one another, especially those in need of a helping hand.

"I don't think it's the label PTSD, I don't even think it's the label veteran that's important," Harden said. "But if you see another human being struggling, the question you want to ask is 'how can I help?' and take that responsibility. And then the world will function the way it ought to work."

## Opera flash mobs into SURC

BY **JOEY BRAKUS**  
Staff Reporter

Those upstairs in the SURC at 11:30 a.m. on May 17 witnessed an opera flash mob as part of Symposium On University Research and Creative Expression.

"People were really confused when we started it," said Joe Sacchi, a participant in the opera flash mob. "I remember directly making a girl jump a foot in the air when I started singing."

The students held an hour-long rehearsal to determine how to change the 'Libiamo ne' lieti calici' scene from their opera into a flash mob. Approximately 35 to 40 people participated in the flash mob. Gayla Blaisdell, the opera director, coordinated the flash mob with Natalie Lupton, chair of the SOURCE Committee.

SOURCE, a day long event, gave students and faculty the chance to show their skills in a number of different areas.

Forty-three academic units were represented in this year's SOURCE, including chemistry, film and video studies, law and justice, sociology and political science.

One of the goals of SOURCE is to promote the talents of Central Washington University students and faculty.

Planning for the event began at the start of the academic school year.

"It's exciting to see how everything has come together," Lupton, chair of the SOURCE Committee. "Everyone has done a great job with their presentations."

Holly Hankins conducted research about methamphetamine in Kittitas County. Hankins started her research in the fall of 2011. There has been a drastic decrease in reported methamphetamine cases in the last seven years. There were a reported 155 cases in 2005. In 2010 there were 69 reported cases, a 68 percent decrease.

"One of the reasons for the decrease in methamphetamine use in the recent years is because of awareness of the harm it does to the body," Hankins said.

Katie Weigt Taylor and Whitney Walker did research about how the standards of school lunches have changed within the last 20 years. In December 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 into law. Allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make reforms to school lunches by improving the nutrition. In July, changes

**"People were really confused when we started it. I remember directly making a girl jump a foot in the air when I started singing."**

**-JOE SACCHI**

Opera flash mob participant

will go into effect in the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program in Washington State.

One of the new guidelines the USDA created is that each lunch must contain fruits and vegetables. Before, schools were able to serve just one or the other.

"One of the new guidelines is that each student is supposed to get 10 cups of fruits and vegetables a week," Taylor said.

Another new guideline is that school lunches will not have trans-fat, and will include less sodium.

Fifty percent of grains must contain whole wheat so students have more fiber in their diet.

"Schools will also be required to have different fruits and vegetables often so students do not get tired of eating the same things every day," Walker said.

Addison Wenger, Rolf Minton, Matthew Ingham and Ryan Corbin did a project which involved fixing the Foucault pendulum in Lind Hall. The pendulum has not been working since 2004. The Foucault pendulum demonstrates the Earth's rotation by its constantly changing apparent direction of swing.

"It was great getting to apply a theory outside of class," Corbin said.

## Blast from the past: alumni return, discuss careers with students

BY **AUBREY ABBOTT**  
Staff Reporter

Many students wonder what the purpose of their degree is, or where they can go with their degree. Central Washington University provides numerous liberal arts degrees that provide ample amount of opportunities for students.

A panel of Central alumni from eight different departments came to speak to students on May 15. The panel of alumni consisted of a variety of liberal arts degrees such as English, communication, philosophy, music and art. The panel spoke about the benefits of receiving a liberal arts degree from Central, as well as the opportunities that they have pursued. Students had the opportunity to listen and ask each panel member questions.

Marji Morgan, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, coordinated this event for students to attend.

"I think it is extremely beneficial for students to see the opportunities out there," Morgan said. "It is great for students to listen to the alumni who once were in their seats."

This is the sixth year Central alumni have come to speak to students. Morgan established this event because she believes it's an opportunity for students to see the results of receiving a liberal arts degree. Morgan stated that this event is beneficial to faculty as well because they are able to see their work pay off.

Seattle Associated Press sports writer and Central alumni from the Communication Department, Tim Booth, spoke about many of the possibilities of receiving a liberal arts degree. Booth said that a liberal arts degree gives a more rounded breadth and perspective to life. Booth also said that there are more opportunities, specifically at Central, because students not only have a smaller class size, but they are able to learn more in depth.

Other panelists included Sean Dyers, business lawyer for Starbucks.

"You are able to think on your feet, solve problems, develop great communication skills and have overall clear communication," Dyers said.

Graduate school, internships, interviews and overall degree choice were all discussed.

"Sell yourself to whatever field you are going in," said Katherine Mason, department of English alum.

Students were able to see what life could be like in the next 10 years. Panelists were able to discuss and give advice to students about finding a job and choosing a career path.

"I really enjoyed the panel of alumni. They helped me understand that just because you get a specific degree, doesn't mean you have to go into that specific field," said Sara Melton, junior public relations. "The alumni panelists loved their time at Central and learned many things here that helped them in their life, even outside their major. I was able to connect to what the panelists were saying. They were very relatable."

Additionally, all of the panelists were recognized at the college's awards banquet May 15.



# Learning Commons educates students on plagiarism

BY CASSANDRA NILSEN  
Special to the Observer

Google is a one-stop shop. With just a few clicks, information is available to students. But is it really theirs?

Students everywhere face this question on a regular basis. Whether conducting research for an analytical paper or looking for help with a difficult math problem, students must decide how to use the information they find online.

Over the past couple of years, Central Washington University has experienced an increase in students submitting someone else's work as their own, according to Richard DeShields, associate dean of students. He attributes this increase to the ease of access to online information.

"I think that with more and more work resting on the Internet, we are seeing a lot more of that, the alleged violation of plagiarism," DeShields said.

Plagiarism falls under the category of academic dishonesty in the Student Conduct Code found in the student handbook. Those who violate the code, which also covers other forms of cheating, are subject to a range of disciplinary actions dependent upon a variety of factors, such as the severity of the offense or the number of offenses.

Among the new measures will be the mandatory attendance at a plagiarism workshop developed and offered by the Learning Commons, which houses both



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the Writing and Math Center.

Student staff from both centers will participate in the workshops, covering topics ranging from the impact of cheating, how plagiarism is defined and how to avoid it.

At the first workshop, held May 10, the staff acknowledged that there are many gray areas when it comes to academic integrity. As fellow students, they understand that sometimes it's hard to know what is allowed and what isn't.

"When I teach English 101, students always have tons of questions, they're worried about it," said Prairie Brown, director of the Learning Commons. "They don't want to plagiarize."

With the first workshop behind them,

the Learning Commons staff will continue to modify the program to best serve students. Emphasis will be placed on group discussions aimed at providing a safe place to ask questions and brainstorm solutions.

"My hope is that it's going to be a conversation about why academic honesty is important," Brown said.

DeShields wants the workshops to help students but also make them more responsible.

"This is another sanction to help strengthen the writing of our students and hold them accountable," DeShields said. "It's not acceptable for them to plagiarize."

While some students intentionally plagiarize, Brown believes that a lack of un-

derstanding about what constitutes plagiarism is the primary cause.

"[It's] my hunch that even if they think they know, they don't understand their citation style as well as they should, or nobody has ever talked with them about how a paraphrase can be plagiarizing," Brown said.

One Central student, who attended the first Academic Integrity workshop, is a perfect example of what Brown believes.

"My school district didn't teach me how to cite," said the student. "When it came to citing, I didn't know what I was doing."

DeShields doesn't think students get many plagiarism lessons in high school, or even in the first couple years of college.

"I don't know that they're fully prepared from their high school experience, even their early college years," DeShields said. "[Not] until they get into their major courses, and really understand what's expected of their writing in their majors. By starting early and communicating these things with students, by holding them accountable, we're supporting our faculty as well."

The Academic Integrity workshop will also be made available to professors who want to utilize the information in their classroom.

"Once we have it developed," Brown said. "Then it's another tool in their toolbox."

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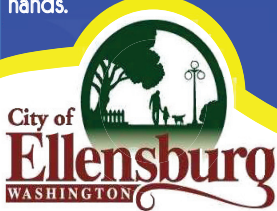
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# Gabbing with Gaudino

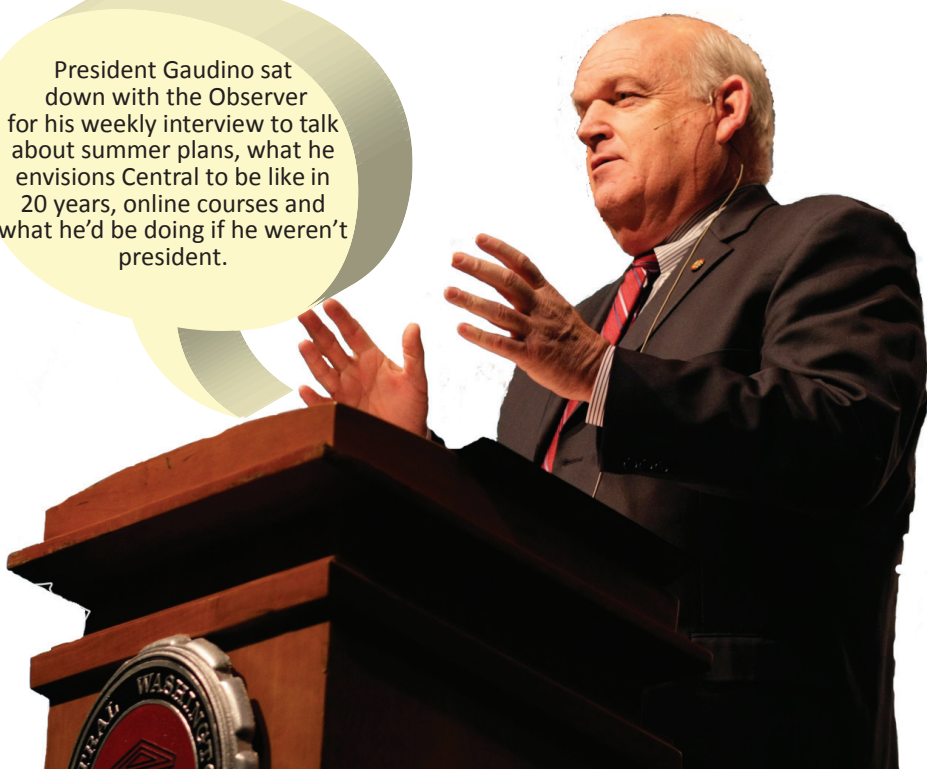
BY DANNY SCHMIDT  
News Editor

**What’s going on this summer?**

There’s lots. Students sometimes think that universities slow down in the summer and we don’t. We really just change during the summer. Obviously, there’s fewer students here because it’s summer school and fewer students take summer school. But there’s a whole different sort of activity. One set of activities that a lot of students don’t realize we have is, we’re a major conference and camp destination. We’ll have, literally thousands of students and non-students here. We operate the largest football camp on the west coast. A lot of state organizations hold their summer retreats at Central Washington. That money that we make goes back into the operation of the university during the normal nine months.

The other thing we, of course, is this is the time where we get the campus ready for next year’s freshmen class. So there’s lots of work on the grounds, there’s lots of work on the classrooms, there’s lots of cleanup and repair from the academic year. We do what we call Discover! Orientation, where those students who are either still a little bit undecided and who want to come make their final decision, or those that decided to come here just want to get a leg up on class registration. We do four big events for those families.

President Gaudino sat down with the Observer for his weekly interview to talk about summer plans, what he envisions Central to be like in 20 years, online courses and what he’d be doing if he weren’t president.



**Where do you envision Central in five, 10, 20 years?**

Central-Ellensburg is about the same size. It’s even better known for the quality of education that we provide. We have more scholarships to offer our students, so there are more students who are here on academic, athletic, [or] some sort of talent-based scholarship. There’s even

more opportunity to study off campus at international study, or service learning. Our faculty have a little bit more time to do research. So there’s even more research than there is now, and there’s a lot now. There’s even a stronger connection between the university and the city of Ellensburg. There’s more businesses that are more student-oriented. We have even more online offerings. Online offerings

mean, in some cases, in a limited number of degrees, you can get your entire degree program online. In others, you can get a few courses online. We now offer more on-line degrees than any other public institution in the state of Washington.

**If you didn’t retire as Central Washington University President, what would you retire as?**

The fantasy of all presidents is to go back to the classroom for a year or two to teach. That’s how we got into this business. Then various things have gotten us into administration. Every president that I know loves to teach. There would be the possibility that if I were to retire from the presidency, to teach for a year or two. Not if I’m too old. Because I’m going to be sitting, talking to a student like you about iPads and convergent media stuff, and will I still have the chops to do it? I don’t plan on going and taking another job as the president some place else.

For video of the full President Gaudino weekly interviews, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/cwuobserver>

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## Almost to the end of the qWEST

I'm going to miss you all. You've given me an attentive ear over the course of the last three quarters.



**WES MORROW**  
Sports Editor

You've been there for me to vent. You've laughed at my stupid jokes (well, some of you have). You've even pressured me into a long-term commitment.

You have, along with my jobs, essentially taken on the role of a long-term girlfriend.

After next issue you may never hear from me again, unless you read many travel and outdoor writings, because that's where I'm hoping to go next.

Next issue will be my senior farewell, so I won't get too into anything that might make you cry.

I've written about 30 columns for The Observer now. Over the course of the last year and a half, I've created plenty of loose ends to tie.

When I came to Central I wasn't particularly excited. I was amped to be in college and I was looking forward to taking interesting classes, but about Central itself I was not overly enthusiastic.

Even now, I don't have a hard time finding things to criticize. Problems abound in higher education and even within our own administration.

You learn tons spending a year as a news editor, but those things haven't disillusioned my view of Central. That's because the best thing about Central is the people who work here, and I've been blessed to meet many of them.

To those faculty and staff who care, not about Central, but about the students and their success — thank you.

I can't thank every one of the great teachers I had. I will thank some of the most important next week, but this week my resources are limited.

I want to thank Gary Bartlett, who has been my intellectual mentor in muddy philosophical waters and was an eternally helpful light along the dark and winding path of my undergraduate thesis.

I especially want to thank Ryan Hopkins, who has been a tremendous mentor to me and a hugely positive impact on my life. Without Ryan, my time here at Central would have been ill-spent. His unwavering commitment to student success, often going far out of his own way, has taught me more than a multitude of classes.

So thank you, Ryan. Don't work too hard. Remember the full value contract — the pinky may be the smallest finger, but it's the most important. This is my chance to give you some important advice you once gave me: Family comes first, then friends, THEN work.

## Dear Readers,

The Observer welcomes brief letters of 300 words or less from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. To be printed in the following week's issue, please e-mail your letters to cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Sunday. The Observer reserves the right to reject or edited for style and length. All letters become property of The Observer. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

# This just isn't working out...

Work out, eat right and stay fit. It seems simple right? It is, until you throw something called life into the mix.



**MAECY ENGER**  
Copy Editor

Don't get me wrong; I do have the best intentions of going to the gym every day. Then I find out two tests, a ten-page paper and a video project all due by Friday are on my calendar and going to the gym slowly falls off the to-do list.

Not to mention trying to find time to eat, trying to be social and sleeping, as well as a job so I can survive at college. Exercising suddenly becomes a thing I should do, but I never get the chance.

I honestly don't know how some people work out all the time. I ran into some friends and they had just finished working out for four hours. Four hours? I could think of a million and a half things I could have been doing in that amount of time. Maybe that is my problem: I don't exactly put it high on my priority list. I think the problem is that there isn't a grade, no one expects me to show up there, and it's the last thing on my list of relaxing things to do.

Honestly, I don't think I could list five people that go to the gym for fun. Everyone goes because they have a pressing

reason that could affect them in some way if they don't. For example, going for a sport, your friend dragging you along because they don't want to go alone or looking for cute people to flirt with. Try asking any gym owner and they can list off "the regulars," people who go every day, and then "everyone else," the ones they make money off because they never go. Mix the bad attendance of going to the gym and fast food America and no wonder we have such a high obesity rate.

I don't even want to get started on eating healthy. When you want a veggie option at the SURC, I hope you like lettuce or you are in trouble. Will power is a delicate thing; try going on a diet for a week or two. I bet you cheat at least once.

Sadly, I'm not helping that number at all. The problem with priorities is there are too many of them and some of them end up falling off the table. I know I should go to the gym occasionally but try this excuse on a professor: "I couldn't finish (fill in the blank) because I had to go to the gym." See what grade they give you. I bet it won't be an A.

I salute you who manage a busy schedule and take time to go to the gym every day. As for me, I am "everyone else." Maybe I'll take an exercise class. That way I'll feel like I'm making an effort. But don't worry, Jack in the Box; you won't be losing my business.

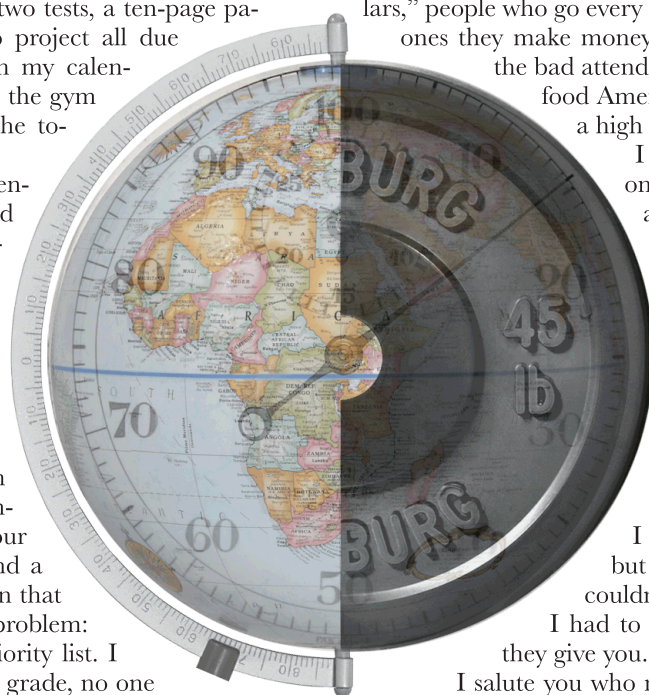


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KATHARINE LOTZE/OBSERVER

## #Goodbyeeee

It seems like just last week I was moving into Davies unsure of what to expect but ready for my four years at Central. Who knew that I would go through everything that I have and still come out on top? I'll admit it hasn't been easy, but I am so thankful for every bump in the road because it has led me to where I am today.



**KELSEE DODSON-CARTER**  
Scene Editor

I have learned so much since I have been at Central. Not only academically, but also about myself. I know what I want out of life and who I want to be from here on out. Although graduating is a very bittersweet feeling, I know that the path God has set for me will be an amazing one. I trust and have faith that He will lead me to where I need to be.

My mom has been such an inspiration to me. Since I've been at Central, she has been diagnosed with cancer...twice. Yet she still remains happy and positive despite everything she is going through. I look to her for strength and hope that I can be as determined, courageous and beautiful as she is someday. She has always pushed me to go after all of my hopes and dreams

and to always be the best version of myself, no matter what. Without her constant support and encouragement, I probably wouldn't be here today. Thanks Mom, for everything, and choosing to fight the battle with cancer. I don't think you will ever know how much that means to me.

A couple months ago, my mom and I got tattoos together. Not matching ones, thank God, because she got "f\*\*\* cancer" on her middle finger. I got quotations on my wrist. Of course, I got crap from everyone saying that I just love journalism so much that I needed a quotation tattoo, or that my wrist is now attributed but really that's not why I got them. I got them because, first off, I like them and second, I love words and the way that they come together to inspire, motivate and change people's lives. Sometimes, words are all we have and sometimes they hold more truth than memories or anything else in life.

This wouldn't be a proper goodbye if I didn't mention Beth. Although we will always be in each other's lives and never actually say goodbye, I am definitely going to miss having you as a roommate. There are too many memories to list but I can say that I'm glad they were all made with you. You know you are grandmas when you have matching nightgowns.

But really what are we going to do with no more new fall, winter or spring quarter lives? We will have to figure something out

and hope for the best.

I think the hardest part—pause—about graduating is leaving behind my Observer peeps. We have spent a billion hours together, in and out of class, and although it was stressful and at times I felt like I had no life and wanted to poke my eyes out, I wouldn't go back and change anything. You guys came into my life as co-workers and classmates but I will always consider you all my good friends. Between the YouTube videos, random dance/rap battles and competitions for the best headlines, I'm really going to miss you guys. Thanks for putting up with my weird noises, laughs, Bieber fever, obsession with perfect teeth and the need to use hashtags in real-life conversations.

Since I've been here, I have been able to cover, interview and write about some pretty amazing people. I'm blessed to be a writer and so very thankful for everything I have been able to accomplish on the Observer and with my internship at the Daily Record. It's going to be very weird when I'm not in the newsroom on a Sunday night, making the issue planner and editing stories. But this is just the end of a chapter in my life and although I hate to close it, I cannot wait to see what happens from here.

I wish everyone the best for the future. As Drake would say, "You're going to miss me a little when I'm gone." K byecccc!

## Dear Editor,

I am incredibly concerned over the decision to change the Central Washington University logo and especially the comments of the Director of Pubic Affairs, Linda Schactler regarding the process. As a Central Washington alum, I take great pride in my school. The school logo is the face of the university and what identifies us and we, as students, relate to.

To not include the students in the process of changing that identity is troubling. Even worse is the condescension toward the students exhibited by Schactler in the story.

In the May 2 story titled "Students try to neuter new logo, New 'Cat head causes controversy at Central," Schactler was quoted when asked about how upset the student BOD was having not been included in the process.

"It's never occurred to me to consult the BOD for marketing decisions," Schactler said. "If they want to be involved with uni-

versity marketing, they should change jobs."

What unbelievable arrogance. To think that the students don't deserve to have a say in the face of their university is downright asinine.

Personally, I do not like the new logo. I have no intention of purchasing any apparel that has the new logo on it. However, what upsets me most is that the students were not consulted on the change. If the student body as a whole was in favor of the new logo, then I would accept the change as the students would have said, "This is the logo we want to represent us."

That apparently didn't happen here. The students deserve that right.

--Curtis Crabtree  
Former Observer Sports Editor  
CWU Class of 2008



## BROOKS TALKS ZOMBIES, BRINGS CROWD TO LIFE

BY CHRIS SPARKS  
Staff Reporter

"Zombies are scary, not funny," said Max Brooks, award winning author of "The Zombie Survival Guide," and "World War Z", on May 18. Brooks spoke at Central Washington University about the realities of a zombie attack. As a part of campus activities event, there were close to 400 people in the audience. Some were dressed as zombies, buzzing with anticipation.

"You know, it was completely different [from his books], and it was hilarious," said Lindsay Rose, senior public relations. "You didn't expect so much comedy, it was great."

The New York Times best selling author's presentation had students, teachers, and community

members roaring with laughter. Brooks humorously covered a variety of different topics ranging from remembering the crocodile hunter, dramatic video games and movies, to how to assemble a personal team in the event of a zombie apocalypse.

"This presentation definitely didn't let me down," said Zach Russell, senior geography. "I couldn't stop laughing; definitely feels like I took more from the event."

Brooks began his routine by clearing up the fact that even though his book was meant to be serious, it's still sold in the humor section.

"There's nothing funny about being killed and eaten by zombies," Brooks said.

He kept the audience engaged by comparing the myths of a zombie apocalypse to the actual realities of how to survive in a situation like that. Brooks listed important items such as water, an effective weapon, a proper vehicle and a good team.

"When talking about survival, we are talking about the very boring details that aren't put in the movies," Brooks said. "But they are

going to save your life."

He expressed that when there is a zombie attack, it's not going to be like a video game. There will be no health packs to keep you magically alive with a variety of weapons at your disposal. He also expressed that relying on the government or the military isn't the best idea.

"I didn't expect it to be funny, I expected it to be a serious presentation," said Patrick Mehl, junior physics.

Brooks continued to poke fun at the myths of zombies, but his overlying message was if you can survive a zombie attack, you are prepared for any kind of natural disaster.

Brook's interactive performance involved different members of the crowd, taking any and all questions from the audience.

"I thought his cynical way of

answering questions made me laugh," Mehl said.

To end his performance Brooks selected a volunteer from the crowd and displayed a zombie self-defense move that could save someone's life. Brooks had the volunteer chase him like a zombie, and he walked off waving to the crowd as the audience erupted in applause and cheers.

A line stretched from the entrance of the SURC Ballroom all the way to the back of the room as students, children, parents and teachers waited to meet and have Brooks autograph their books. The presentation left the crowd buzzing, and the zombies were the topic of discussion.

"I'm definitely prepared for a zombie attack," Russell said.

## 5 MINUTES WITH MAX BROOKS

**What do you want the students to take out of this?**

I'd like students to look past sensationalism, and look at the cold hard details of life. Because I think if you practice critical thinking on a much deeper level, you can pretty much problem solve, uh for any contingency. For example, if you're never attacked by zombies but you prepare for them, you are still ready for natural disasters. We are going to talk about the little boring details that won't make into a video game or a movie, but will keep you alive.

**Is there anything you want the students to know, who probably didn't get to see your performance tonight?**

Yes. There is one thing that if you do, you will survive and that is think. Because seriously, we are

animals, and we are prone to panic. And whenever we are confronted with crisis, most of the time we panic. Instead of taking a breath and really looking around, and really seeing what is the problem. We do it as individuals, and we do it as a nation. So I think if we smell smoke, let's actually see if there's a fire. And I think if you do that, you'll be okay in any situation. If it's a job interview, or a friend of yours get sick, whatever. If any crisis, if you're just like 'take a breath, and let's think about this,' you'll be alright.

**What do you think about the show, "The Walking Dead"?**

Loved the first season. It was amazing and the comics were great. And I don't watch the second season because they fired my buddy Frank Darabont. He's the show's creator. The man who gave us the Shawshank Redemption. Yeah, AMC

totally fired him, so AMC can go to hell. And I'm not trying to start a boycott or nothing, but just on general principle even if he wasn't my friend, you don't fire the show's creator. Unless he had something crazy in his contract, come on dude. Don't fire Frank Darabont.

**What got you into the whole zombie genre?**

Fear. Zombies are freakin' terrifying. We've all had a childhood nightmare of zombies, well at least I did, and the problem I have with zombies is that they come to you as opposed to you going to them. You know every other monster, you watch every other horror film, and you can say to yourself, well you were looking for trouble. Zombies, they totally come to you. You can be totally minding your business and they'll come through the door.



Photo illustration by Kelsee Dodson-Carter  
Zombie hand courtesy of www.decalsonly.com



# Art from around the world

## Children's Art Class hosts final celebration

BY ELIZABETH WHEELER  
Staff Reporter

For the past six weeks, kids from kindergarten through sixth grade have been participating in Children's Art Classes every Friday. Each week, the kids would break up into their age groups and learn a new art form. Some of these included Native American masks, cave art, and Japanese anime. The art classes were taught by student teachers from Central Washington University.

Shari Stoddard, the director of Visual Art teaching, started organizing children's art classes years ago when she taught at Ball State University in Virginia. According to Stoddard, teaching kids art is "good for the teachers and good for the community. Art majors can put their theories to practice. It's beneficial to everyone and educates parents and kids."

About 40 kids come to participate in the art classes annually. Stoddard sends out an email each year to faculty and staff to get the word out about the classes, which brings in kids from the community.

"We also bring in some homeschooled kids too, kids that may not have these kinds of opportunities," Stoddard said.

Each year Stoddard creates a new theme for the classes, this year's being driven by different cultures around the world. Several student teachers were as-

signed to one age group and had to create lesson plans for their classes. Every class takes place in Randall Hall, where the student teachers first demonstrate the art form to show how it's done, then the kids have their turn. Snacks are also provided for the kids at the lessons.

After the lessons, the student teachers write a reflection paper to figure out what went well and what didn't.

According to Stoddard, the kids get to use art materials that may not be available at home like clay, wire and other objects. They also get the chance to be inspired by different artists' styles.

"But we don't believe in copying," Stoddard said. "We want to take these things and apply them to the kids' own lives."

And it shows. Every week the kids came to the classes with shining faces, and left eager to learn more.

"The kids loved talking about their art and were all engaged in it," Stoddard said. "And they all do such good work."

On May 18, the Children's Art Classes had their Final Celebration. All the kids' work from the six weeks was displayed in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery in Randall Hall. Parents and teachers were able to walk around and see the artwork and enjoy refreshments. The kids were also each given an award certificate and a CD with pictures from the classes in all six weeks.



ELIZABETH WHEELER/OBSERVER

**ON DISPLAY** Diorama inspired by Chinese dragon boat was among the artworks on display for the Children's Art Classes final celebration on May 18.

"I love how enthusiastic they all are about art," said Kaley Graybeal student teacher, art/elementary education sophomore. "Especially after a long week at school."

The kids came to the classes on Fridays after being at school all day.

"Sometimes we have to try and keep them calm and keep their attention span," Graybeal said. "It's about balancing energy."

Another teacher, Brandi Voss, senior graphic design, started teaching the classes

for fun, to see what it was like, and ended up loving it.

"It was amazing to see how advanced the kids were, and to see what they could do," Voss said.

The Children's Art Classes will be back again next year, bringing together the Ellensburg community and Central students. Most importantly, it gives kids a chance to see what art can do for them.

"I think it is good to know that there is a need for expression," Stoddard said. "And we can give them that."

# SOURCE offers audiences a sneak peek into June fashion show

BY BOBBIE BLACK  
Staff Reporter

On May 17, Central's fashionistas put on a fashion show on the second floor of the SURC. This show was a mini version of the 16th annual spring fashion show called "Wild and Free" in June.

The stage was engulfed by a crowd of Central students oohing and awing as the nine models strutted one by one down the stage wearing their designer originals.

Marie Lenac, senior psychology, was part of the crowd and was impressed with the results.

"All the work was creative and well done, we have some very talented students in the fashion program," Lenac said.

Once the show was over the designers and their models went over to Symposium on University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE) where they each had a poster displayed. Each poster was a summary of the designer's work and what inspired their individual designs.

Amy Westendorf, senior fashion merchandise, designed a long white dress with a low neck line and sash. The dress was called "Untouched" and was inspired by the beach. She said the markings the tide makes on the sand as it goes in and out is what inspired the ruffy dress with 13 tiers.

Megan West, senior fashion merchandise, displayed a garment named "Bare Ambition," which is part of her line "Seams Brash."

"These dresses were prom-inspired but I have added more sophisticated elements such as dropped necklines, high slits, and sleeves and these are meant to be worn to



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER DECKER

**SPIKES** Nicole Dahl poses in Angelina Rich's design at the Fashion Show.

upscale events," West said.

Angelina Rich's design "Peach Caviar" was a unique piece with edgy style and a touch of class. The dress was a dashing shade of peach with handmade ceramic studs strategically placed. Fashion merchandising professor Andrea Eklund also participated in the show. Her piece "G.I. Jane" was military-inspired and made out of four jackets and two pairs of pants given to her by veteran friends. Eklund said she wanted to take the typically masculine look of military clothing and add femininity. The final product was born after 70 hours of work.

16th Annual Spring Fashion Show  
3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 2  
Milo Smith Theatre  
Presale the week of the show at the SURC  
tabling area: \$8 for students, \$10 for  
general admission \$10 at the door

# Depp in the dark

## Tim Burton's film adds charm to the big screen

BY JEFFREY ALAN COTÉ  
Observer Film Critic

No other film director comes to mind that has quite the same level of cult personality as Tim Burton. Ever since his classic film "Edward Scissorhands" was released some 22 years ago, Burton's quirky, macabre style has suited well with certain subsets of American youth.

Also propelled to popularity from "Scissorhands" was young actor Johnny Depp, who has since collaborated with Burton on many films. The new dark comedy "Dark Shadows" is their eighth project together.

Based off the 1960s gothic soap opera of the same name, "Dark Shadows" stars Depp as Barnabas Collins, a 200-year old vampire who awakens in the early 1970s to a culture obviously much different than his own.

When the previously rich and cultured Barnabas finds his descendants to be a lackluster and downtrodden lot, he makes it his goal to whip the family back into shape.

Though this film had a lot of potential, screenwriter Seth Grahame-Smith struggles with adapting the soap opera format to the big screen. Grahame-Smith's screenplay coincidentally ends up feeling a whole lot like a television show, but in the worst possible way.

"Dark Shadows" features the same massive cast, interweaving subplots and preposterous situations as an old soap opera would, only without the fun.

Grahame-Smith and storyteller John August introduce a whole legion of characters, including those played by such talented performers as Michelle Pfeiffer, Helena Bonham-Carter and Jackie Earle Haley, only to forget to give them any memorable characteristics, let alone a sense of purpose. When combined with sad, predictable jokes and an ADHD-induced plot, the screenplay fails to be at all memorable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEROCOMPLEX.LATIMES.COM

Yet, "Dark Shadows" is not entirely without charm. This is without a doubt due to the film's lead performance. Though the material he is given is fairly lifeless, Depp's depiction of an undead time traveler is quite enjoyable. It is truly a sign of a talent when an actor can shine in a film that is otherwise largely mediocre.

Burton's formula may be getting tired, but at least his work is never entirely regrettable. Surprisingly, "Dark Shadows" actually benefits from his creative input.

Burton's trademark darkness does well here, which can be seen via creative visual effects, imaginative set design and sharply defined art direction. This film is many things – bland, scattered and formulaic among them – but it is certainly never lacking visually.

All things considered, "Dark Shadows" is rather inoffensive. There's nothing to be seen here to enthusiastically recommend a viewing, but there's nothing too egregious either. Fans of Burton's work in the past should have no problem enjoying themselves.

C+



# Not the Muppets but Bunraku puppets

BY JAYNA SMITH  
Staff Reporter

“Pearl and the Five Headed Dragon,” a puppet show about a young girl who learns she can do anything she puts her mind to, debuted on May 18 in Hertz Theatre.

Written and directed by Sarah Andrews, sophomore theatre, as a production of the Adbhuta Puppetry Project and the play was befitting for any age group.

“This show is about not knowing your own abilities,” said Andrews. “I want the audience to know they’re all perfect the way they are.”

In the story, Pearl, who was born with magical powers, is found by a dragon, which was cursed with five heads by a person who possessed magic. After contemplating eating her, the dragon decided to raise Pearl as its own. The only problem is that the dragon must compensate for its own misfortune and tell Pearl that she is deformed.

The rest of the story is about Pearl’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEN HODGE

**STRUNG ALONG** Pearl introduces Daniel to her “Mother,” in “Pearl and the Five Headed Dragon” performed on May 18 in Hertz Theatre.

journey to embracing her own inner strength and being happy with who she is. Andrews wrote the play so that it would be easy for anyone to grasp the moral, no matter what their level of understanding.

“I think she made it easy for kids to understand,” said Wendy Lane, freshman English.

The puppets that were used for the people in the play were a style of Japanese Bunraku puppets that allow lifelike movement but are also harder to operate. Everyone who worked on this project got

a chance to learn how to use the puppets at the Wenatchee Puppet Slam, even those outside of the cast.

“It was a completely new experience,” said Drew Gibbs, junior theatre. “I’d never even dreamed of being a master puppeteer.”

Learning how to move as one was difficult at first, but Gibbs said that getting to play an interesting character was a highlight of the experience. His character was the coward and incited laughter from the crowd. As a group, the actors made adjust-

ments and suggestions that followed Andrews’s vision for the play.

“The actors made choices that truly went with the art of the show,” Andrews said.

Another key aspect to the play was the music to help move the story along during transitions. Jordan Whidbey, sophomore theatre, wrote all the music for the play including seven melodies composed just for the play.

Whidbey played the music live, but it appeared as if it was a recording because he was purposefully placed so he wouldn’t be seen. Having been playing instruments since he was six or seven, he was able to play the music on guitar despite never playing one before. He was excited to see how well everything turned out.

“I’m so amazed by it,” Whidbey said. “I remember the beginning not knowing how to move the puppets, and now to see what we ended with.”

The Adbhuta Puppetry Project (TAPP), a nonprofit that produces original puppet shows and also provides workshops, was very influential in the development of this production as well as Alley Cat Artists, which supports the disabled community in Ellensburg amongst other things. Andrews said that a former employee for Alley Cat Artists asked her to write the play originally.

The play is scheduled to go through the weekend but Andrews hopes to continue writing and directing in her future—if not at Central then definitely in her career after school.

# Raw Space on Lean

Leenie Krew, Mike Champoux, Gem Starks pop off

BY BEN NEWBY  
Staff Reporter

Raw Space may need to be checked for structural damage due to bass overload after the May 18 ‘Made in the NW’ hip-hop show. Headed by Central Washington University’s own Mike Champoux, with support from Gem Starks, Leenie Krew, and Coaster, the artists all came together Friday night to promote their friends’ clothing company, Respect My Region, and to play an energetic live performance for everyone in attendance.

As the crowd trickled in and began picking up Respect My Region threads at special prices, Coaster, a Selah local, took the stage.

Thanking everyone for coming out, and laying claim to his hometown “c-lo,” Coaster encouraged everyone to come up to the stage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PONCE DE LEON

**HANDS UP** Gem Starks rockin’ the crowd at Made in the NW on May 18 at Raw Space

“Get as close as you want,” he said. “I won’t bite.”

Coaster’s style of hip-hop was a little darker and more serious than some of the other MCs that would take the stage that night. With this mood of music and heavier lyrics, it was apparent Coaster had seen and experienced some rough times.

“Wolf status, king of the struggle,” he rapped into the mic.

After a short three-song set, Coaster got off the stage after setting the bar at a fairly high level for next group, Leenie Krew.

Also representing Central, the two members of Leenie Krew, Ryan Anchetta (Remedy) and Trenton Lamont (Scotty Pipes) climbed up onstage rocking way-farers and backwards snapbacks. Pulling the then-dispersed crowd back to the stage, Anchetta commanded to the deejay, “Alright, hit me with it,” as the beat was brought in.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN ADAMS

**SERENADE** Ryan Anchetta (Remedy) and Trenton Lamont (Scotty Pipes) capture the crowd with their performance on May 18 at Raw Space.

Right off the bat, Leenie Krew draws the audience in. There is a unique dynamic between the two, as George croons to the crowd with his soulful voice and then is suddenly switched to Anchetta’s hard-hitting rap delivery.

The crowd cheered and whistled as George sang the chorus of a new song, “You can leave the heels on, cause tonight we gonna get it on.”

Layered over acoustic guitar, “Just for the Night” is going to be featured on their upcoming mix tape, and the crowd approved of the teaser they got.

Leenie Krew’s set ended with a club-ready banger that had everyone bobbing their heads and moving in place.

Next, Gem Starks’ set was more like a party with the Respect My Region family. Everyone that was performing that night, along with friends, all got onstage and were hopping around with each other as they covered songs like Wiz Kahlifa’s “Young, Wild and Free,” as well as some originals.

As more and more girls clad in skirts and heels began to shuffle into the room, it was a good sign that Mike Champoux was soon to take the stage, which is very familiar to him at Raw Space. Champoux first started off with a humble introduction.

“Thanks a lot for everyone coming out, enjoying each others’ company, chill-

ing and listening to some music. It really means a lot,” Champoux said.

Since taking a leave of absence last year from Central to concentrate solely on his music, Champoux still makes it a point to come out to Ellensburg and give Raw Space high energy shows.

The crowd of dedicated Champoux fans and friends immediately threw their hands in the air as the first bass beat kicked in.

Kevin Goin, senior information technology and administrative management, came out to “promote Respect My Region,” and friends like Champoux.

Commanding the crowd to “make some noise,” Champoux got everyone screaming as he went into an acapella rap that gave a big middle finger to anyone who tries to bring him down.

A seasoned veteran of playing hip-hop shows, Champoux left no corner of the stage untouched as he hopped around, threw his hands up and always kept the crowd engaged.

The show was more like a hang out. All of the artists brought the entire crowd together, sent out positive messages and all around good vibes. No one was sitting in the back or standing alone. Everyone was having a great time supporting local hip hop artists and companies like Respect My Region.



# SURC gets sexy

## Second annual Sexapalooza gets students off

BY JEANETTE GENSON  
Staff Reporter

Dim lights, sexting, fake orgasms and top 40 hits. No, this wasn't a party last Friday, all of these activities plus many more were part of the second annual Sexapalooza.

The Wellness Center and Residence Hall Association (RHA) have teamed up to offer Central students an event that brings awareness, education and fun to the topic of sex.

The SURC Ballroom walls were lined with tables and decorated poster boards. The main stage was set up front and center with a runway and lights. The lights were low, but the only mystery as to what people were talking about came from the anonymous questions for the sex panel before they were read.

"We are trying to make it open to everybody," said Lauren Nolt, sophomore public relations. "That's been kind of the theme for this year and in RHA is gender inclusivity."

Nolt is a volunteer coordinator of the event through her involvement with RHA and the Social Academic Committee.

In order to get different perspectives, Equality through Queers and Allies (EQuAL), Planned Parenthood and Catholic Campus Ministry were present for the event offering their take on sex.

## Me & the Girls downtown specialty gift shop

BY RACHEL CHURCHILL  
Staff Reporter

Me & the Girls is a cute, fairly new gift shop that is a great choice when it comes to looking for a creative gift for someone special or even for yourself. With the affordable prices, any customer is almost always guaranteed to make a purchase. They have a variety of items reaching all customers, filled with awesome deals and steals.

The new gift shop specializes in home décor and gifts within an affordable budget. Every item is different, and with the variety, finding a gift for someone is easy.

"The shop is very cute and the owner is very nice," said Kaeli Cassaday, junior public relations.

The trendy and adorable store is located on the corner of North Pearl Street. The outer appearance gives off a historic vintage feel. The building has its own history and was built to be a bank, and then housed City Hall. Now the three-story building holds offices, a loft and the gift shop.

Owner Rhoda Simpson named the store Me & the Girls after her daughters. Simpson, originally from Ellensburg, has always wanted to open up her own shop

"It's not just pushing abstinence and it's not pushing sex," Nolt said. "It's every different perspective and it lets a lot of college students know that if they are going to have sex, it teaches them how to have safe sex."

This year's event featured many creative games and activities for students to participate in to encourage safe and helpful habits. Other activities were there merely to entertain the crowd, such as the fake orgasm competition. Runner up Arthur Fink, junior psychology, shared a few

**"A couple of my friends had told me and pressured me into it, because they had apparently heard it before... my fake orgasm."**

**-ARTHUR FINK**  
Junior psychology

thoughts shortly after getting off stage.

"A couple of my friends had told me and pressured me into it, because they had apparently heard it before...my fake orgasm," Fink said.



COURTNEY HOTTOWE/OBSERVER

**TICK TOCK** One of the unique gifts found at Me & the Girls.

and have her two daughters be a part of it. Simpson wanted a shop that reflected her, and she also wanted to offer many unique items that cannot be found anywhere else in town.

"I love my redneck wineglass; you can't find them anywhere else," Simpson said.

Her redneck wineglasses, gurgle pots and colored pasta are just a few of her rarity products. Simpson wanted an environment that felt welcoming.

"I wanted a fun place for people to come enjoy themselves and for each customer to walk away with an experience," Simpson said.

Whether it being a piece of jewelry, home décor, inspirational signs, candles or local work from Yakima and Cle Elum, Simpson wants to create a memory for her guests.

Me & the Girls business hours  
Tuesday - Friday :  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday:  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Alice Bowman, senior public health education, is a peer health educator at the Wellness Center and her focus lies in creating and implementing programs aimed towards sexuality, healthy relationships and sexual assault. She is one of the lead coordinators of this year's Sexapalooza.

"What we strive to do in the Wellness Center is just like educate people on a variety of topics in a safe space and comfortable environment," Bowman said.

Sexapalooza's line-up of attractions included a Sexy Feud, which was similar to the popular show Family Feud with hotter questions, and the condom fashion show. Students made articles of clothing using condoms in and out of the wrappers.

The Social Academic Committee "puts on social and academic programs and so this is one that we feel incorporates the best of both worlds and is really fun, but still really informational," said Daniel Harada, senior elementary education.

Harada is the vice president of RHA and is in charge of the Social Academic Committee.

"I think it's very important for people to know what their options are when it comes to their sexuality and what they can do about their sex lives," Harada said.

Erin Thatcher, sophomore theater management, was returning to the event for the second year in a row.

"I think it's really informative. I went to it last year, and it's really interesting and it shows most sides of sex," Thatcher said.

Thatcher was so impressed with Sexapalooza last year that she wanted bring a friend along this year to enjoy the fun with her.

"I first went because my friend wanted me to go, and I thought it was really cool,"



SETH LONBORG/OBSERVER

**YEAUH** Daniel Harada, RHA vice president, advertises Sexapalooza May 15.

said Jennifer Groce, sophomore technical theater. "It's not something you see every day and you learn a bunch of new things and it's just a fun way to learn."

After a busy night of lube thumb wars, condom clothes and a dildo table, many students left with pamphlets, fun new facts and information about all different kinds of sex.

3 WINNERS  
WILL BE ANNOUNCED JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>!



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# Who wears jort jorts?

## Students make plans for Memorial Day weekend

BY CHLOE RAMBERG  
Staff Reporter

To the vast majority of college students at Central Washington University, a three-day weekend means a break from the daily grind of college life. With Memorial weekend fast approaching, students are planning their getaways before finals start.

It seems likely that Ellensburg may be a ghost town come Memorial Weekend, with students planning on taking trips to various locations. Chelan is one of this year's hot spots, and Ashley Stevens, junior environmental studies, is excited to be ending the school year with a great vacation.

"I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones, and mostly just having a relaxing weekend before finals," Stevens said.

Stevens and her roommates will be staying at the Best Western in Chelan, where they have spent the weekend for the past three years. Stevens explained how the hotel was tolerant of the college students, and provided a safe environment for them.

Some of the activities Stevens and her friends will partake in include hanging out

by the pool and the lake, as well as making trips into town for the nightlife.

While some students are making their way to different vacation spots to enjoy some fun in the sun, they also have the chance to enjoy musical performances as well.

The Gorge Amphitheatre, located near the Columbia River in George, Wash., is a popular concert venues. The Gorge will be hosting this year's Sasquatch! Music Festival, which brings up and coming Northwest musicians to the public.

Matt Christiansen, senior law and justice, will be spending his weekend providing security. Christiansen works for Starplex Crowd Management Services, and this will be his seventh year working the concert at the Gorge. Even though he is

working the concert, he enjoys the experience nonetheless.

"I honestly can't say I've ever heard anyone not enjoying Sasquatch," Christiansen said. "Four days of camping, as well as a variety of mu-

sicians and comedians performing is not hard to enjoy."

The Gorge Amphitheater has a capacity for around 27,500 people, according to Christiansen. There will be a great chance

to meet new people and indulge in a new and exciting environment.

Enjoying Memorial weekend doesn't necessarily require venturing far from the Ellensburg area. Lake Cle Elum is right down the road, and some of CWU football players fill their precious time off with camping and good company.

Louie Bruketta, senior business management, will be spending his third Memorial Day weekend on the rocky beach of Lake Cle Elum. Bruketta is a linebacker on Central's football team, and wants to spend his weekend with fellow teammates and friends.

"It's just a bunch of our close knit friends," Bruketta said. "We can blow off steam and bond with each other."

The group sets up tents and spends the weekend playing horseshoes, barbecuing, swimming, and practicing safe drinking habits. They even have an unusual tradition: dressing up in jean shorts, also known as jorts.

"We have a jorts party we started our first year," Bruketta said.

This group is looking forward to taking a break from their typical football uniform and slipping into a nice pair of jorts.

Students searching for a more relaxing weekend getaway can find that at The Cove, located in Orondo, Wash. Caitlyn Runland, sophomore pre-nursing, makes the trip every year to spend some quality time with her family.

"I love being there with my family and spending the day on the river," Runland said.

Runland's family brings a boat along and spends the days doing various water activities and creating memories. Runland likes to take the time with her family, since



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUIE BRUKETTA

**PAUSE** Louie Bruketta hangs up his football gear to celebrate Memorial Day weekend

she sees her friends at school on a regular basis.

Other vacation spots to spend the weekend within driving distance are Lake Roosevelt, Moses Lake, Crescent Bar and Vantage. Students want to spend their time off on the water, hopefully basking in nice weather.

Whether students are spending their time off traveling to new and exciting places or just relaxing at home, Memorial Day weekend provides the perfect opportunity to rejuvenate for finals and wind down before summer officially starts.

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# Manastash hike goes upward dog

BY SCOTT HERMAN  
Staff Reporter

The steady two-mile trek of sweat, heat, and cramps had some wondering if this was going to be the peaceful hike they thought they had signed up for. However, after reaching the top of the Manastash Ridge trail, the panoramic view opened up and nothing sounded more perfect than a relaxing yoga session. The heat and sweat succumbed to the cool breeze, and the leg cramps suffered on the way up faded after a few poses.

The Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) led a group of about 25 hikers and yoga enthusiasts to the top of Manastash Ridge, Saturday morning for their first ever yoga hike. The event was so well attended that OPR was forced to turn away a wait list of 10 hikers who showed up early hoping to snag an open spot in the vans.

Those who made the trip were greeted with sunny weather and very little wind, making it a near perfect Ellensburg morning.

Attendees represented various experience levels of both yoga and hiking with some yoga beginners just wanting to give it a try and some coming prepared with their own mats.

Yoga is just one of the ways students can manage the stress of spring quarter, and coupling yoga with a challenging climb provides a unique test to the mind and the body.

"I think it's awesome. I think it's a great opportunity to challenge our cardiovascular system, our endurance, and kind of work it out going up the hill and then doing that mind, body, and nature connection at the top," said yoga instructor Kristi Zollers. She led the yoga portion of the hike.

Zollers explained that the upward climb puts tension on a person's lower back and on certain joints like the hips and shoulders. The tension can be especially bad if the person is carrying a backpack, as many were on Saturday.

According to Zollers, the yoga at the top then helps release the tension by using a series of traditional moves designed to open up and relieve those areas of the body.

Much of the event was made better by the collective attitude of the group; they were able to keep up with each other and supported each other when the trail became difficult.

"I think it was a really good group of people. Really surprising that everyone was at a similar level of fitness; everybody stayed together," Zollers said.

Katie Berberick, senior art, acted as the yoga hike's trail guide. She saw the event as a success due to its broad appeal. It's the most hikers she has had to lead in her two years working as a guide for OPR.



SCOTT HERMAN/OBSERVER

**HANDS UP** (ABOVE) The group follows Kristi Zollers in a variation of the Tree pose. (BOTTOM LEFT) Katie Berberick leads the group up the Manastash ridge trail early Saturday. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Yoga instructors Kristi Zollers and Kaylee Petter lead the group in pose.



"I think that we got such a good turnout because it kind of reached out to two different groups of people, our yoga people and our hiking groups too," Berberick said.

Another popular element of the hike was the view upon reaching the top, overlooking Kittitas Valley and the mountains



"When you get up there the view is all the way around, I didn't know where the front of the 'classroom' should be," Zollers said. "With that panoramic view, people could move around and take in whatever they wanted."

Brian Paulson, junior film and video studies, was one of many in the group try-

ing yoga out for the first time.

"It was definitely a relaxing experience being up there, being able to be out in nature," Paulson said.

With the first yoga hike an overwhelming success, those who are interested in the popular event should register for future hikes soon.

## Climbers tackle Weekly Challenge

BY RANDY RAJKOVICH  
Staff Reporter

The Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR)-sponsored program Weekly Challenge has been running since the beginning of spring quarter. The Weekly Challenge is every Thursday from 5-7 p.m., and gives people the opportunity to get outside and have some fun physical activity.

For \$5 per person, students and community members have unlimited access to climb the Alpine Tower, a large 50-foot jungle gym, obstacle course and giant rope swing.

"The Alpine Tower is like an outdoor rock wall and big toy that people can climb on and the rope swing is 30 feet long and has a 10 foot free fall," said Lance Larsen, senior accounting major and course facilitator.

The Weekly Challenge was created to help develop team building skills and get the community physically active. Clubs and individuals can come together and learn to improve skills such as communication and problem solving among other team building experiences.

"Weekly Challenge tries to accomplish goals for each group and gives everyone something to take home," Larsen said.

More and more students, clubs and community members have been coming out for the Weekly Challenge.

"We have seen a better turnout this year than in seasons past," Larsen said. "There was even two grandmothers who joined us, it was pretty cool."

The Alpine Tower and giant rope swing are not for the faint of heart and scare many people away.

"The obstacle course was intimidating at first, but my team was able to coax me through it," said junior exercise science, Anthony Tibeau.

Once the initial fear is overcome most people enjoy their time participating in

the Weekly Challenge. The program allows the community to have fun while becoming a better team member. Adults can come out and play like a kid again.

"Playing on a jungle gym like this takes me back to when I was very young," said senior political science Colby Pederson. "It's a fun way to learn to work together and be a better teammate."

So if you are looking to build upon your communication skills, be an overall better teammate or just want to have some fun on the obstacle course, come join the excitement of the Weekly Challenge. Feel free to stop by OPR, located on the SURC's East patio, and Lance Larsen will set you up for an adventurous Weekly Challenge.



# All-American Davis excels

BY EVAN THOMPSON  
Senior Reporter

Nestled up against Flathead Lake near the vast and conquering Montana wilderness, Kati Davis was about as far away from Central Washington University as she was from pole-vaulting. It was the summer of 2008; Davis was working as a horseback guide for Averill's Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork, Montana, after dropping out of her partial track and field scholarship to Seattle Pacific University only two quarters into her freshman year.

Davis didn't mind though – she was an outdoor enthusiast at heart and loved more than anything to be surrounded by it, along with the great people she had already met and the valuable things she had learned during her stay.

But one day her mother called suggesting that if she didn't return back to school that very fall, she probably never would. With the help of her mother, Davis enrolled at Central, which not only held her major in fashion merchandising, but also gave her a chance to return to track and field to hopefully continue pole vaulting career.

Davis made the most of her opportunity, becoming a two-time All-American and GNAC champion, all in only two years of competition. She is currently aiming for her third straight All-American finish after just recently qualifying for the 2012 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATI DAVIS

**CHAMP** Davis poses with her trophy from the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Field National Championships. Seeded 15th in the championships, her chances of a three-peat may seem lofty, but Davis has been training part-time in Portland to master her skills two times a week when possible. After Nationals and her graduation, Davis plans to move to Portland to train full-time, and even has goals of competing at the 2016 Olympic trials.

Before Davis even had goals of representing her country in the Olympics, she had to find a passion for the sport first. Davis grew up in Olympia, graduating from Tumwater High School in 2007. She didn't even start pole vaulting until her freshman year – Davis first started running cross-country in an effort to get ready for the basketball season. It was one of her basketball coaches, Todd Taylor, who she considers to be a mentor, that first introduced Davis to pole vaulting.

“[Taylor] was like ‘Well you got the right build, you’ve got the right attitude and you have to be a bit crazy’ and I was like well, I’m all about it,” Davis said. “And so he was always right there coaching and

he would always push me.” Davis hit the ground running; during her high school career Davis placed three times in the pole vault at the state track and field championships and still holds the school record at Tumwater. Soon, she had aspirations to continue her career into college.

“We were always competing and pushing each other, and I liked it, I liked it a lot,” Davis said, “so once I started getting up there and going to state I knew I wanted to do it in college.”

Davis accepted a partial scholarship to Division II Seattle Pacific University, and was excited to be a part of their already successful track and field team. However, Davis soon discovered that SPU wasn't turning out the way she hoped.

Davis stayed at SPU for two quarters before going on spring break, but never returned. She travelled to Montana and found her job at Averill's. She worked at the lodge from May to September until she enrolled at Central in the fall, returning to her education and track career.

But Davis missed her first two years due to NCAA transfer rules and injuries. Finally, by her junior year Davis was able compete.

In her first season of competition in a Wildcat uniform, Davis placed second at the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championships and was named the GNAC Women's Newcomer of the Year. Then during the outdoor season Davis set the school record with a mark of 12 feet, 2.75 inches, and qualified for the outdoor national championships, which she entered as the 10th seeded pole-vaulter. She cleared the first three heights of the competition, each on her first try and even

got close to breaking her own school record after having three solid attempts at 12 feet, 4 inches, and placed seventh to claim her first All-American honors. Davis then moved onto her final campaign for the Wildcats as a senior, starting with the indoor track and field season, during which Davis went on to win the GNAC title and was tied for having the sixth-best mark in the country coming into nationals. And for the second time in as many appearances, Davis earned yet another All-American finish, placing eighth.

“Once I got there, my first nationals was in California, I was confident and I jumped clean all the way up to 12 feet which is what I wanted to do,” Davis said. “Then I went to indoor nationals; I had a good season going up to that, I knew I was going to jump well.”

Davis is preparing for her third national championships in Pueblo, Co., with competition starting Friday. Davis is excited for the atmosphere, which is something she has grown accustomed to over her last two appearances.

“It's awesome; I think it's a whole 'nother caliber of athletics, you know, of sports,” Davis said. “I love traveling to go to these big meets because that's where people are caring about what there doing, it's a whole another level of intensity and I like that, I like being surrounded by that, it makes me want to be better.”

After the national championships and her graduation, Davis' journey in Portland will begin. Her goal is to vault 13 feet. Once she reaches 13 feet she believes she can only continue to improve.

For the full story visit [www.cwuobserver.com](http://www.cwuobserver.com)

# Mud, sweat, and tears

BY KEATON MCATEE  
Staff Reporter

Overcoming obstacles in various ways is a part of life; the obstacles that participants will face in the annual Wildcat Dash will challenge them both physically and mentally. On May 24, Central Washington University recreational department will host their inaugural Wildcat Dash located around campus.

The Wildcat Dash, better known around the nation as the Warrior Dash, will begin at 3 p.m. and have seven different heats taking place every thirty minutes. With the help of the Reserve Officer Training Corps here on campus, there will be 13 obstacles that the participants will have to overcome throughout the 3.5-mile course.

The skill level and energy needed for each obstacle will vary. Some of the obstacles the participants will find themselves up against are mud crawls, slack lines, over/under bars, and various obstacles on and around the challenge course.

Students will be challenged in multiple ways while participating in a fun outdoor experience. University Recreation department employee and intern Tim Stanfill has been developing this activity throughout the quarter.

“Get outdoors and exercise a little bit. You get a little bit of a run in the nice weather that we are anticipating and also get some good physical workout, as well as a mental workout,” Stanfill said. The idea of the event came from the bigger Warrior Dash that has been sweeping the nation as of late. Intramural Coordinator Eric Scott is hoping to capture some of the excited students that may have participated in some of the events and give them an affordable and local alternative.

Scott has talked to multiple students and Warrior Dash participants and expects to receive good numbers in the event. Talking around campus, Scott has

heard of at least 20 students who have traveled to either Oregon or North Bend to participate in bigger Warrior Dashes. Other Warrior Dashes can cost up to \$120 for just an entry fee.

The event will not only give current students an exciting event in which to participate, the Wildcat Dash also hopes to create Central sport club scholarships. Honoring students, the event is scheduled on student appreciation day on campus.

“Wildcat Dash is sponsoring with multiple sponsors for student appreciation day. There will be live music, and lots of free giveaways. This will be a fun activity for students to honor students themselves,” Stanfill said.

There will be prizes for winners of each age group, as well as the best costume award. This award will go to the male and female who best expresses their Central spirit.

Participation in the Wildcat Dash provides students with an alternative to other race formatted events and will focus not only on the completion of the event, but showcase the diverse ways that students can enjoy physical competition.

Both Stanfill and Scott hope this event will become an annual event at Central.

“The success will lead to an annual event that we can run here every year,” Stanfill said. “This will make it easier for people who want to participate in the actual warrior dash but can't travel and or pay for it, so this is a fun activity they can do on campus for a cheap price.”

This experience will be unlike any other event at Central. The opportunity to participate in the trending American challenge course race in a familiar environment amongst your peers should not be missed. Popularity of these types of events has finally made its way to CWU, and the Wildcat Dash promises not only to provide a positive and challenging environment, but also entertain the age old battle of man versus nature.

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# Wakeboarding cruises to Nationals

BY BRYAN SLATER  
Staff Reporter

On May 31 the Central Washington wakeboarding club will compete in Oklahoma City for this year's national championship. This will be the third straight year that Central has the opportunity to win the title. Previously finishing third in 2010 and seventh in 2011, the Wildcats are looking for a little revenge.

"Everyone is really healthy this year and we are looking forward to a little redemption," Eddie Roberts said. "I know there is going to be some tough teams down in Oklahoma this year, but we are ready for them."

Central will be taking seven riders to Oklahoma for the competition. They have Thomas Olson, who is considered their best rider and will be the Men's A rider. Joining Olson will be Eddie Roberts, the vice president of the club and Men's B rider. Brett Lund, club president, will be the Men's C rider.

"I'm pumped," Lund said. "It's my last year so I'm trying to go out with a bang. Our team is better than it has ever been before so we have the potential to take it all, and I am excited to be a part of that."

Following Brett will be Corbin Schafer as the Men's D rider. The team also includes Pat Mahoney in the wake-skate part of the competition. Finally, the women riders will be Kodie Trinidad, Women's A rider, and Michelle Moos, Women's B rider.

This year's national championship will include some of the best teams in the nation. Last year's champion, the University of Tennessee, looks for back-to-back titles.

"I heard that Tennessee has some injuries that they are recovering from," Roberts said. "That could play in as a wild card factor."

Regional rivals and possibly among the top five teams in the nation, Arizona State and Chico State look for revenge after losing this year's regional competition to the Wildcats. Other teams competing will be: Ball State, Florida Gulf Coast, Illinois State, Louisiana Tech, North Carolina State, 2010 champs the University of Florida, Louisiana Monroe, University of Miami, Virginia Tech, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I really think we have a good chance," Roberts said. "I know University of Tennessee and Chico State will be tough this year. But I want to be in that first to third range and I really do think we have what



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN ADAMS

**SPIN CYCLE** Eddie Roberts backflips off a picnic table at People's Pond.

it takes."

To get into Nationals, Central had to place top three in the regional competition. It might have been convenient that Central was hosting. At Lake Silverado in Chehalis, Wash., the Wildcats played host to the best teams in the west coast region.

"We did have a little bit of a home-field advantage because it was a little cold that time of year," Roberts said. "So, all the ASU and California kids were freaking out because they needed their wetsuits and dry suits. I was stoked because it was 65 degrees, which is warm for us."

Central placed first on their "home lake," followed very closely by Arizona State and Chico State. The rest of the standings were: Sacramento State in fourth, Boise State in fifth, Whatcom Community College in sixth, University of Washington in seventh, and University of Oregon in last.

For the national's team format there is a rider for each group; Men's A-D, Women's A and B and wake-skate. Men's A is

the team's best rider; B is second best and so on. In the competition, each team's A rider competes against the other A riders and same for the other groups.


"It's kind of like a wrestling match in a way," Roberts said. "One rider from each team rides head-to-head, winner of that scores a point for the team."

The criteria for the individual scoring are amplitude, style, and composition. The scores will be determined by how big your moves go (amplitude), how clean your tricks are and how fluid the run is (style), and finally how difficult the tricks are (composition).

"Sure, if you have one outstanding rider, you could go and win the Men's A," Roberts said. "But unless you have solid depth throughout the team, you're not going to place well as a team. I really do think we have some solid depth."

The national competition will be something to look forward to, since Central doesn't usually have an opportunity like this to be on the center stage and win a national championship.

"I never imagined myself being on TV for an extreme sport," Lund said. "Both years Nationals has been filmed by CBS, and to watch yourself afterwards knowing that at the time you are on the water, you know you are being filmed and you are going to be on national television. It is a cool feeling and it makes it a little bit more hairy when you're out on the water trying to make sure you land everything."



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